



THE RESPONDER

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE • JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER

OIL SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROGRAM • DECEMBER 2013



Remote Sunken Vessel and Spill Response

The Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Prevention and Response Division responds to all coastal oil spills in Texas, but some occur in areas that are hard to reach. In September 2013 the Land Office received a call reporting a sunken vessel at Port Mansfield, a small fishing village on the northern edge of the Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program's Region 4. Because Port Mansfield is in such a remote location, the Land Office positioned a boom trailer there with approximately 1,500 feet of boom for emergency responses. This trailer is permanently stationed at the



The Land Office deploys boom around a sunken vessel in Port Mansfield.

Port Mansfield Navigation District warehouse.

Once responders arrived, they immediately noticed the vessel had sunk while tied to the dock and diesel was leaking from its stern. With no responsible person in the area, Land Office responders deployed 200 feet of containment boom around the vessel to ensure the remaining diesel on board wouldn't further contaminate the surrounding environment and harbor. On most occasions, the Land Office advises the vessel owner to hire a Discharge Cleanup Organization to contain, clean, and remove the vessel from the water. When there's no responsible person available the Land Office will contract with a DCO to respond. However, it takes any DCO up to two hours to respond to Port Mansfield. Due to this remoteness and the sensitivity of the area, the Land Office took immediate action to contain diesel leaking from the vessel. After three days, the majority of the fuel and oil were removed, and the vessel was added to the Abandoned Sunken Vessel Database for future removal.

Land Office responders are not only trained to advise in cleanups, but also to take action and deploy the necessary equipment to protect people and the environment. Although some oil spills do occur in isolated areas, Texas General Land Office Oil Spill responders will continue to protect every inch of Texas coastal waters.

GLO Partners with USCG Brownsville for Harbor Patrols

The Texas General Land Office Region 4 Brownsville Office recently conducted a joint spill prevention operation with the U.S. Coast Guard Brownsville when Hurricane Ingrid threatened the southern Gulf of Mexico. The operation was in response to the influx of 180 Mexican fishing vessels into the Brownsville Turning Basin during Hurricane Ingrid's approach and subsequent landfall along the Mexican coastline.

The harbor patrol was the third of its kind conducted in the last six years with the USCG Brownsville, due to the high number of fishing vessels from Mexico seeking refuge in U.S. waters during tropical storms. All three harbor patrols proved to be beneficial in responding to and preventing illegal bilge oil discharges into Texas coastal waters.

The Land Office looks forward to continuing these joint spill and prevention patrols with the USCG, which have proven effective in preventing illegal bilge pumping.

Thanks to all the agencies that assisted and the Brownsville Navigation District for its support!



The GLO and the USCG Brownsville conduct Harbor Patrols during the threat of Hurricane Ingrid in the southern gulf.

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Hellos and Goodbyes in the Spill Response Community

The Texas General Land Office would like to warmly welcome Adam Davis, NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC), to the Gulf of Mexico response family. Davis recently joined NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration and will be working out of the Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center in Mobile, Alabama as part of the NOAA Scientific Support team.

Davis was born in Charlotte, North Carolina and raised in Mobile, where he and his family still live. After graduating with a liberal arts degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, he entered the U.S. Army, where he served as a nuclear, biological, and chemical operations specialist. Upon completion of his tour in the Army, having served with the 101st Airborne Division in Germany and what was then Yugoslavia, he returned home and completed a second bachelor's degree in environmental science at the University of West Florida.

Davis has worked at URS Corporation as an environmental consultant, primarily working on groundwater remediation. He has also worked for Aerostar Environmental Services as a senior scientist, and for the last six years as a Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team contractor for the U.S. EPA Emergency Re-

sponse and Removal Branch, primarily in support of the out-posted EPA On-Scene Coordinator assigned to the Mobile area of responsibility (AOR). Davis has responded to numerous natural disasters and emergency responses, including hazardous material releases and inland oil spills.

The Land Office welcomes Davis to the close-knit response community; he'll be a great asset to the NOAA SSC staff. We look forward to working together to fulfill our common goals.



Adam Davis and family.

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**Report oil spills
1-800-832-8224
24 hours**

The Responder is published by the Texas General Land Office.
Questions and comments may be submitted to Angela Jarvis
via email at angela.jarvis@glo.texas.gov
or by phone at 281-470-6597.

Colonial Pipeline Holds Unannounced Exercise

On October 29, 2013 the Texas General Land Office participated in the Colonial Pipeline unannounced exercise that was held at the Marriott Hobby Airport. The scenario used in the exercise was designed to simulate the response to a targeted worst case discharge of gasoline into the San Jacinto River due to mechanical failure of a relief valve. The exercise was a one and a half day Command Post (Incident Management Team) and equipment deployment exercise.

Land Office personnel were actively involved in the exercise with Regional Director of the La Porte Office Richard Arnhart acting as a Controller/Evaluator, Angela Jarvis as Historian, Trang Vu as State On-Scene Coordinator (SOSC), Gray Powell as Assistant SOSC and Jesse Mayorga as Liaison Officer. Trey Trahan assisted with Operations and Ryan Clevenger with Planning. "We were pleased by the response and realism of this spill exercise," Arnhart said. This exercise was very challenging due to the volatile nature of the simulated product discharge, but with the expertise of federal, state and local agencies and Colonial Pipeline personnel the event was a success and a wonderful learning experience.



General Land Office personnel working with other agencies during the Colonial Pipeline Exercise.

Sector Corpus Christi PREP Full Scale Exercise 2013



Crews work to set anchor systems and stake boom at lighthouse channel.

The Corpus Christi PREP FSE 2013 was a full-scale, multi-agency exercise overseen by various federal agencies. The National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) was developed to establish a workable exercise program which meets the intent of section 4202(a) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90). The PREP provides a mechanism for compliance with the exercise requirements, while being economically feasible for government agencies and the oil industry to adopt and sustain. It's a unified federal effort that satisfies the exercise requirements of the U.S. Coast Guard, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and several other federal agencies. Completion of a PREP exercise satisfies all OPA 90 mandated federal oil pollution response exercise requirements.

In addition to the Command Post portion of the drill three separate equipment deployments took place in conjunction with this exercise to demonstrate local oil spill response capabilities and test protection strategies. On July 30th, the National Response Corpora-



Multi-agency players working through the spill scenario.

tion and Miller Environmental Services deployed equipment at the Aransas Marine Ways shipyard, including the NRC Oil Spill Response Boat (OSRB) *Valiant* and 600 feet of solid ocean boom. On Sep-

tember 10th, the National Spill Control School at Texas A&M - Corpus Christi tested two geographic response plans (GRPs), 48.16 and 48.14, in the vicinity of Lydia Ann Lighthouse Channel with the help of students taking oil spill re-



Personnel in the Command Post responding to a simulated oil spill.

sponse training. These GRPs are in ICS Form 204 format, and can be found in the South Texas Coastal Zone Area Contingency Plan (ACP) on the annual Oil Spill Planning and Response Toolkit available online or in DVD form from the General Land Office. Finally, on September 19th, equipment was deployed in the Port Aransas area by the Texas General Land Office and the Oiled Wildlife Facility at the Animal Rehabilitation Keep at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute. The facility was tested to determine capabilities for handling oiled wildlife.

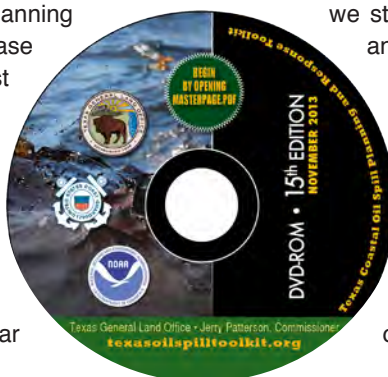
The Incident Command Post (ICP) was located at the Richard M. Borchard Regional Fairgrounds, Conference Center, in Robstown. The command post portion of the exercise—conducted on September 18th—allowed players to respond to a simulated pollution incident. The exercise was designed to evaluate the capabilities and effectiveness of the Coast Guard Captain of the Port (COTP)/Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC), the Corpus Christi Area Committee, State of Texas, local and industry partners to carry out their collective responsibilities as outlined within South Texas Coastal Zone ACP, applicable Vessel Response Plan (VRP) and various other state and local response plans. General Maritime Corporation volunteered to play the Responsible Party for the Vessel Worst Case Discharge scenario.

This exercise provided the response community with an opportunity to improve preparedness by validating information and procedures within the contingency plans, identifying weaknesses for correction in subsequent versions of the plans, identifying strengths to share as best practices, and practicing command and control within an incident command/unified command framework. Every drill conducted in our area benefits everyone involved and aids in the development of our ACP, allowing us to be more prepared in the event of an actual event.

2013 Oil Spill Planning and Response Toolkit

Hurray! The 14th Edition, 2013 Oil Spill Planning and Response Toolkit is ready for release with all new Area Committee Plans, Upper Coast ESI shoreline maps and Geographic Response Plans. Make sure to get your updated DVD or thumb drive toolkit from your local General Land Office Regional Office or from our headquarters in Austin.

The toolkit is a response tool brought to you through a combined effort between the GLO, U.S. Coast Guard District 8 and NOAA. Each year



we strive to bring the response community the latest and most updated tool.

The 2013 Toolkit is provided on a DVD or thumb drive free of charge to the spill response community. To order toolkits, contact your local GLO Oil Spill Field Office or contact Steven Buschang, Director of Research and Development and Scientific Support Coordinator, at 512.475.4611 or by email at steve.buschang@glo.texas.gov. You can also access the toolkit online at <http://www.texasoilspilltoolkit.org>.

BSEE and GLO Conduct Unannounced Drill at Sabco Oil —

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and the Texas General Land Office conducted an unannounced drill with Sabco Oil and Gas on August 28th in Aransas Pass. The purpose of the drill was to ensure that Sabco's spill response resources were response ready and accurately reflected in its spill response plan.

Sabco was selected by BSEE to demonstrate its spill response capabilities due to a recent event involving the company that threatened to discharge several thousand barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. The drill evaluated Sabco on its understanding of key aspects of its spill response plan, including an updated copy of the plan on site, chain of command and notifications, ability to handle and deploy all necessary spill response equipment, and a constant level of safety and awareness.

Once the drill scenario was presented to a Sabco representative, the company was able to notify all personnel listed in the response plan. Notifications included state and federal agencies, as well as Sabco's qualified individual and all spill response personnel. Sabco was able to acquire all necessary vessels for transportation and equipment needs, and deploy and recover all equipment without incident.

Sabco demonstrated its ability to present and utilize its spill response plan, notify personnel in the chain of command, mobilize spill response resources, and keep all personnel safe. This drill and others like it help to ensure that both industry and government



Sabco personnel deploying equipment during an unannounced BSEE and GLO Drill.

are working with one another to keep Texas coastal resources protected.

International Oil Spill Conference



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